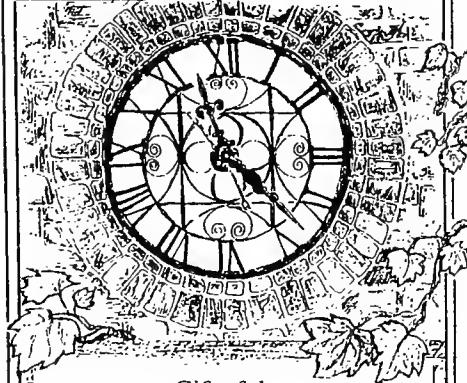


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## DISCUSSIONAL.

**LINCOLN SAID THAT HE BELIEVED IN THE MAN AND THE DOLLAR, BUT THAT IN CASE OF CONFLICT HE BELIEVED IN THE MAN BEFORE THE DOLLAR.**

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,  
Monday, August 27, 1900.

To the Editor of the New York *Evening Post*:

DEAR SIR—Looking over the reports of the conferences at Indianapolis on the 14th and 15th insts. of the Anti-Imperialists and Independents and reading Mr. Charlton T. Lewis' letter in your issue of the 20th, also considering the present general attitude of your highly esteemed journal, I confess to surprise at the return to the McKinley ranks of certain distinguished citizens, who within the past two years have pointed out most forcibly the iniquity of the course of the Federal Administration in regard to the Philippine Islands. In contemplating these retrogressions, I recall Prof. William James' observation in his Talks to Teachers on Psychology, viz: "When a resolve, or a fine glow of feeling is allowed to evaporate without bearing practical fruit, it is worse than a chance lost."

Metaphorical tears and apostrophic visions on the floor of the Senate may tickle the ears of those who appreciate melodrama, but, unless backed by concrete action, they merely breed doubt and disappointment—sophistication; and this is where the danger in general lies to the McKinley Anti-Imperialists. They have, in effect, if not in so many words, asserted that the administrative action relative to the Philippines is a monstrous infamy; and falling short of the full measure of the courage of their convictions, they will be laughed out of court; for people, even though uncultured and untrained, are keen to detect weakness and inconsistency. I can understand the unwillingness of a gold standard man to vote for Mr. Bryan, but I cannot understand the willingness of an Anti-Imperialist to vote for Mr. McKinley.

However, if the Independents propose to nominate Republicans as candidates on a third party ticket, I suppose those of us who intend to vote for Mr. Bryan should welcome such an expedient as affording, so to speak, a half-way house or harbor of refuge for natures not robust enough to make the whole opposition trip. Our disposition to acquiesce in this means of opposition is illustrated by a story told by Mr. Louis R. Ehrich, of Colorado, at the Indianapolis meeting, of a man away from home, who received a telegram announcing the death of his mother-in-law, and inquiring, "Shall we embalm, cremate, or bury?" He wired in reply, "Embal, cremate, and bury—take no chances."

The criticisms of Governor Roosevelt and Mr. Lewis upon Mr. Bryan and his followers remind me of those inflicted upon every leading Democratic candidate in the past. Each of the four greatest of the century, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Samuel J. Tilden, and Grover Cleveland, when running for the Presidency, was so assailed, and some of them even more bitterly.

To the former a recent writer refers as follows:

Just one hundred years ago Thomas Jefferson was nominated for the Presidency. The intellect, wealth, and culture of the country opposed him. He was denounced as the demagogue of demagogues, an atheist in religion and a fanatic in politics. An historian has thus formulated the prevailing political sentiment of that time: 'Every dissolute intriguer, loose liver, forger, false coiner and prison-bird; every hare-brained, loud-talking demagogue; every speculator, scoffer, and atheist, was a follower of Jefferson; and Jefferson himself was the incarnation of their theories.'

Nevertheless, Jefferson made a very good President.

The *Post* is doubtless aware, I am a gold standard man; but I know the people of the West, be they Democrats, Republicans, Silver Republicans or Populists; and when I read such observations as Governor Roosevelt's or Mr. Lewis', on the supporters of Mr. Bryan, I always feel disposed to ask whether these gentlemen think the States of Montana, Washington, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, etc., are made up of the kind of people that they decry. Although Mr. McKinley got all but one of the electoral votes of California, the seventeen States and territories west of the Missouri River gave Mr. Bryan a majority of 645,000.

A widely extended business experience gives me some right to speak, and I beg to inform any one interested, that I

have had dealings with the so-called Populists, with whom on certain points I differ, and can testify that I have found them just as earnest, upright and straightforward a people, when furnished with an honest statement of facts, as any I have ever had to do with; in other words, wherever Populism has held sway in this country, that is, west of the Missouri River, the interests which I represent have never yet been harmed by unfair legislation, or otherwise; and, for my part, I feel indignant at the constant assumption of superior righteousness by writers who set up bogie men evolved out of their distorted imaginations.

I contributed some efforts toward Mr. McKinley's success in the last campaign, and referred to him shortly afterwards, as follows: "Certainly no Democrat, and probably no Republican not blinded by partisan bigotry or prejudice, believed that the election of Mr. McKinley to the Presidency could bring prosperity to the country. What gold standard Democrats (of whom I am one) did believe, has been well expressed by Editor Richardson of the *El Dorado County (Cal.) Republican*, as follows: 'The writer voted for William McKinley, not because of a belief that a protective tariff insures a country against hard times, or even tends to permanently remove that condition; but because the entire policy of the Republican party on the tariff and finance was likely to give a temporary social stability, that would enable work and business to be resumed as fast as conditions of supply and demand would permit. Prosperity, as people call it, is not poured out of a bottle into this nation by any political doctor, McKinley or whomsoever he be.'"

But perhaps some will say: How about Free Silver? I answer, the Republican platform proclaims:

We renew our allegiance to the principle of the gold standard, and declare our confidence in the wisdom of the legislation of the Fifty-sixth Congress, by which the parity of all our money and the stability of our currency on a gold basis have been secured.

If they have not been secured, why not?

I further answer in the words of Mr. Alfred Austin:

"Free silver coinage, if it should ever be brought about by Congress — not by the President — and which is altogether unlikely, would, from a commercial and industrial point of view, be bad. But "free slaughter" is infinitely worse. Free silver is in the dim, distant and shadowy future, where it will

doubtless remain, while the 'free slaughter' of innocent people with all the dreadful horrors of war, and last, but not least, the demoralizing effect of war on soldiers and people, and our rulers discarding the Constitution and the teachings of the Declaration of Independence, are ever present, and most alarming to every patriotic citizen who utterly discards the old world doctrine that the 'king can do no wrong,' and that 'might makes right,' and whose pen and voice is ever on the side of freedom, justice and truth; and whose dreams and prayers are that the acts of the present administration may not be 'the beginning of the downfall of the republic,' which was so nobly said by one who a short year ago, was esteemed as the 'noblest Roman of them all'— but who, alas, has gone out from among us, and is now basking in the sunshine of official recognition and forgiveness."

JOHN J. VALENTINE.



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